

REMARKS

Claims 6, 7, 15, 16, 22 and 23 are pending in the application. The status of these claims is as follows

Claims / Section	35 U.S.C. Sec.	References / Notes
6 & 7	Allowed	
15, 16, 22 & 23	§112, Second Paragraph	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unclear claim language

5 In the OA, the Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 7 were allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and her willingness to work with the Applicant's representative in clarifying the application.

Applicant notes that in the discussion below, any use of reference
10 characters in describing the claims is not intended to expressly limit the claims to the precise structure or attributes shown, but rather is for illustrative purposes only.

Regarding claim 22, the Applicant has amended the claim to clarify the ambiguity in that the sealing device opening (e.g., 58 in Figure 8) is referenced.

15 Regarding claim 15, the original translation of the application has been reviewed, and it was noted that the terms "battery case" and "battery chamber" were used interchangeably—thus, these two terms are intended to reflect the same element or rather an element having generally the same purpose. Thus, the battery chamber (7 in Figure 1, and 41 in Figure 7) are both generally the
20 same type of element—one that is used to hold the battery.

Claim 15 has been amended to remove the terminology referring to the battery case, and the Applicant apologizes for any confusion caused.

The difference, therefore, between claim 6 and claim 15 (as amended), is that in claim 6, it is the ventilation opening of the voltage source that is opened or closed via the rotation or turning motion of the battery chamber. In Figures 1-3, it can be seen that the ventilation openings 10A-G are closed (sealed) when the battery chamber 7 is in its open position (dotted position in Figure 1—see Figure 3).

In the Figures 5-7, which reflect the embodiment of claim 15, it is the battery chamber itself that is opened/closed by the rotating motion. In Figures 5-7, the battery chamber (36, Figure 5; 36', Figure 6; and 41, Figure 7) still has a pivoting motion similar to that shown in Figure 1 (note in Figure 7, the pivoting point is located near the on-off switch). However, the pivoting motion in this case now serves not to seal the ventilation openings, but rather to seal the battery chamber itself, when in a closed position. Note that when the battery chamber is in a closed position in Figure 1, the ventilation holes are open—but when the battery chamber is in a closed position in Figures 5-7, the battery chamber is sealed (of course, whether the battery is getting ventilation depends on whether the on-off switch allows access to ventilation through the ventilation opening 38/38A, 38'/38A' and 44/45). Claim 16 then reads on the embodiment shown in Figure 6.


But the primary distinction between these two claims, with claim 15 being amended, is that in claim 6, it is the ventilation holes that are sealed by the

rotation or turning motion of the battery chamber (but not necessarily the battery chamber itself), whereas in claim 15, it is the battery chamber itself that is opened or closed in an essentially air-tight fashion by the rotating or turning motion. Although the figures and reference characters are illustrative of the
5 claimed language, the claims themselves should not be expressly limited to what is shown.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's representative in the event that further clarification is required.

CONCLUSION

10 Inasmuch as each of the objections have been overcome by the amendments, and all of the Examiner's suggestions and requirements have been satisfied, it is respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

15 Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Appl. No. 10/630,096
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA
22313-1450 on June 9, 2006.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pam VanderKam", is written over a horizontal line.

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